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few members have been diligent and faithful, but there are others who have been notable chiefly as obstructionists and others who have distinguished themselves only by their inability to do anything.

So far the record of things done is fairly presentable, but the things under which should have been done make an unenviable catalogue. Just for instance, a bill has passed the senate and is held up in the house, providing for what is known as a scrip system in payment of public improvement taxes. This is designed to permit public improvements on easy payments covering a period of ten years, so that the smaller property owners will not be burdened excessively by paying and other works, and will be enabled to get the advantage of increased property values concurrently with the payments. The system is in vogue in numerous other states, is approved wherever it has been tried, and is endorsed by all the real estate men of this city. It should be passed at once to obviate the possibility of its failure in the last rush of bills.

The house bill providing for the removal of the double tax on mortgages has been held up by the senate, not because of any particular objection to it, but because it has become involved in the controversy, is deserving of special attention. Generally speaking, any mortgage tax falls finally upon the borrower, since the lender is in position to compel the assumption of any burden by the property owner. Where the law taxes mortgages under the system in vogue here, the exaction of taxation by the owner of the mortgage is a simple matter and the fact is demonstrated almost daily on the records. Men lending their own money have provided non-resident companies which nominally hold title to the mortgage but are in reality meant to dodge taxes. On the other hand, the owner of a small house and lot has no means of escape and the result is to make him pay more than his share of the tax falling upon realty. It is an old subject and its discussion depends much upon the point of view, but a bill affecting such vital interests ought to be given a more thorough investigation than this bill is getting or is likely to get in the brief time remaining for consideration.

A legislator finds little enough of thanks and sympathy for his public work even when it is conscientious work. If this legislature is to take home any thanks from the great common people, it is due to "get a move on."

FOR JUVENILE COURT.

THE HERALD would feel that it was not doing its duty if it failed to say a word in favor of the juvenile court bill now pending before the legislature. The measure provides for the establishment of a court with exclusive jurisdiction over juvenile offenders, and with officers whose duty it will be to look after the welfare of the boys and girls that way fall into error. It does not seem to us that there can be serious opposition to this bill.

Its primary object is the separation of young criminals from the older offenders. "Criminals" is hardly the word to use in this connection, either. A boy or girl who has committed a first offense is not necessarily a criminal, although, in the eyes of the law, the law has been broken and somebody must pay the penalty. Given fair treatment, there is hardly a juvenile offender who cannot be reformed if taken in time.

Expert criminologists say that the states which permit the mingling of young and old offenders are guilty of a far graver offense than any boy or girl can commit. They tell us that more criminals are made such through association than through instinct. The theory that some children are instinctively good while others are instinctively bad is not exactly true. Much depends on environment, much on association and training. If boys and girls in the formative period can be kept away from evil associations the chances are decidedly that they will be good men and women.

We care not how good a boy's parentage may be, place him with evil companions and keep him among them for a considerable period, and that boy will be a bad boy. At first he will be shocked by the talk and the actions of his associates. Then he will tolerate them, and at last he will join them in all they do. It is the old principle of the good apple and the bad apples. A good apple becomes rotten if it stays long with rotten apples. The good horticulturist is careful to keep them separated.

So it is with boys and girls. The juvenile court will, if established, keep the good and the bad apart. It will winnow the chaff from the grain. It will keep many a boy and many a girl who has made one mistake from making other mistakes and becoming eternally damned thereby.

An Indiana lawyer has quit practicing to run a saloon. He is still practicing at the bar, however.

The czar refers to his subjects as "My Children," but it seems hard for him to hold them in that.

John D. Rockefeller recently put \$35 on the contribution plate at church. Kansas people will please take notice.

Mr. Jones himself is probably deeply interested in the finding of his body, the search for which is now going on.

The attorney general's decision that the state is not liable for fake claims does not, it is presumed, apply to the mileage and honorarium of the members of the legislature.

A San Francisco maiden of eighteen has just been given possession of a fortune amounting to \$5,000,000. Now would seem to be a good time for congress to pass a law imposing a heavy tax on importations of dukes, counts and other titled gentlemen. There is sure to be a rush.

SOCIETY

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